OPEN ARMS · P.O. BOX 845 · MISHAWAKA · INDIANA · 46546

APRIL 1996

OPEN ARMS

VOL.8 NUMBER 4

· · · · · · MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER · · · · · ·

FAREWELL!!

Some of you may never have had the opportunity to meet the Reverend Jacque Foster personally, but she has been a strong advocate for our community. She spoke out strongly for each of us to be who we are even in the midst of many hate letters and phone calls.

She has created a safe, welcoming environment at Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through which she has touched many of our lives. She has performed numerous commitment ceremonies for our community and has been a friend and an anchor in many a storm.

We thank you, Jacque!
Good luck in St. Louis!
We will miss you!

HOORAY!!
THE ROBINS ARE BACK
AND SPRING IS SPRUNG

The person who has strong opinions and always says what they think is courageous - - and friendless

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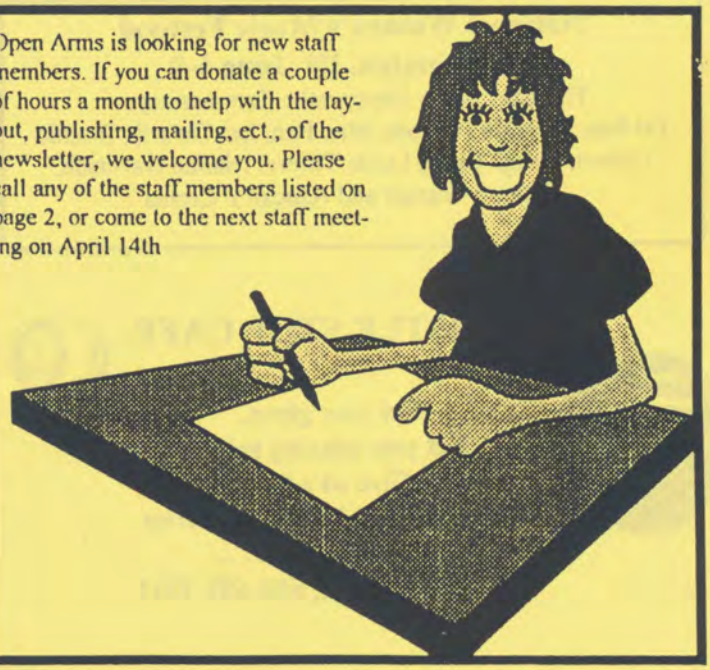
LAVENDER RHYTHM would like to extend a large **THANK YOU** to *Open Arms* and the womyn of the community.
Open Arm's cash donation helped to reduce the admission cost at the March 9th dance. We also want to thank the one hundred wimmin who attended this dance. Without the support of both of you, the dances would have to end. Again,Thank You!

MISSING

One antique cigarette stand missing from the entry way at the Pickwick Place during the March 9th dance. If not located and returned we may have to forfeit the $350.00 security deposit and we also face the possibility of losing this location for any future dances. If you have any information to help us locate and return this stand, please call Nancy or Laura at 616-684-7362 Thank You.....

Open Arms is looking for new staff members. If you can donate a couple of hours a month to help with the layout, publishing, mailing, ect., of the newsletter, we welcome you. Please call any of the staff members listed on page 2, or come to the next staff meeting on April 14th



COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7 -9 p.m.
For info, write
LSG
P.O. Box 1612
Mishawaka, IN 46544

LAVENDER RHYTHM DANCE

May 18, 1996
Pickwick Place
219 N. 4th Street, Niles, Mich.
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. (Ind. Time)
$7.00 admission at the door
Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze (219) 272-3477
Kaye & Marcia (219) 271-0338
Advertising : Kaye & Marcia
Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length and content. We ask that all articles be signed and typed if possible but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested. If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. THANKS.

National Women's Music Festival
Bloomington, IN June 6-9

Thursday night: Margarethe Cammermeyer
Fri-Sun: Melanie DeMore, Mrs. Fun, Lea Delaria, Ronnie Gilbert, Swagi Taiko, Linda Tillery, Dianne Davidson, Kathryn Warner and Azucar Y Crema

WHISTLE STOP CAFE

Get your glove,
Get your playing spirit,
Give us a try.
If you want to have a good time with other wimin....
Call Coach Julie, 616-695-7311

3RD FRIDAY OUT

Sunny Italy
601 N. Niles Ave. South Bend
Friday, Apr. 19th, 6:30 p.m. (Ind. time)
Call Sherrill and/or Lori by Tuesday, Apr. 16
for reservations at (616) 684-6913
All suggestions of future places would be appreciated.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

April 12	Paula Poundstone in Concert (Clowe's Memorial Hall) Indianapolis (317) 921-6444
Apr. 13	"Coming Out" Workshop,East Lansing, MI 517-336-0115 $89/person
Apr. 26-28	"Creating Our Coupleness" Workshop Saugatuck, MI $399/couple 517-336-0115
May 17-19	2nd Annual Gathering of Priestesses: a Conference on Leadership and Service in the Goddesswoman Community (608) 244-0072
June 22	Michigan March for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights, Lansing, MI

OLIVIA CRUISES

Apr. 8-15	Grand Caribbean
Jun. 25-Jul. 3	Alaska
Jul. 28-Aug. 4	France/Spain/Italy
Oct. 5-12	Sonora Bay,Mexico

1-800-631-6277 for info — Club Med Resort

IN THE NEWS

from Salt Lake City:
A *Deseret News*-KSL poll shows 35% of 607 people asked would allow support groups for homosexual students rather than ban all student clubs. 29% favored the all-club ban and 28% would ban gay-lesbian clubs, even if it meant a court fight.

from Greenville, Mich.:
The Mich. Judicial Tenure Commission asked the state Supreme Court to suspend District Judge Joel Gehrke, who suspended penalities against a domestic violence suspect on Jan 4 and slapped him on the wrist.

from New York:
A federal appeals court is trying to decide whether the Clinton admistration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals in the military is a great compromise or a violation of free speech.
For the fifth year, the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization protested its exclusion from the St. Patrick's Day parade with a pre-march demonstration. Thirty-eight demonstrators were arrested.

GENERATIONS OF GAYS

Anthony just called, in tears. It seems that her college class discussed values today. The instructor gave the class a list and asked for responses to various items like " a man in a dress." Anthony, a drag butch, told me, "I walked out. I couldn't listen to their homophobia." On the phone she kept saying, "They hate us. They just hate us."

Gay people are at an awkward stage on the road to independence. As difficult as it was for those of us who came out thirty or forth years ago, at least we weren't the victims of our own high expectations. Anthony has had the good fortune to have come out into an era when she could buy tapes of lesbian music and take her girl to a lesbian movie. She even has access to Leslie Feinberg on E-Mail and has a college instructor who dares discuss difference in a classroom. But when he does, she is caught without her armor. Older dykes would have been ready for the onslaught of misinformation, prejudice and comtempt that she heard today. The young femmes and baby butches have nothing but the fledgling promises of gay liberation to comfort them.

By Lee Lynch

I know they are taking care of themselves just fine, like we all do, but it's hard to watch yet another generation suffer at the hands of a twisted dominant culture. In this time of redefining moral good, I have come to believe that I have a moral responsibility to the young. Yet the old ways die hard, or not at all. Coming out is not an option for everyone.

How can we persuade John the local florist and Joyce the alluring pump jockey to poke their heads out of their closets when they are like ground hogs who never found spring? I asked Mean Norma Jean if, when she and her lover retired here, they had checked out the area for kindred spirits, for local attitudes toward gays, for safety. She replied, "No! We were too closeted." So closeted none of those things mattered because no one would ever, ever know. The gay groundhogs don't even believe in spring - fighting for it would never occur to them.

"I went back, though," Anthony told me, "and talked to the teacher. He wanted to know why I was so angry. He just didn't get it." I kept looking for words to comfort and support her, but all she really needed was to be told that she's okay. That a gang of heterosexists had insulted and degraded her - - and they were wrong.

So I told Anthony she is okay. I hope it helped. The problem is, there's only one of me and so many Anthonys who need to reminded that they're okay. Most of them have no one to call. Joyce and John are still sound asleep, not even dreaming of spring.

I don't blame our groundhogs. The reason I asked mean Norma Jean about how she had approached relocating was because Lover came back from a trip to the Gulf Coast of Texas enthused enough about it to consider living in that area. I immediately started ticking off cons on my scardy-cat questionnaire. Texas still has a sodomy law on the books. Texas just replaced Governor Ann Richardson with George Bush, Jr. The Gulf Coast is filled with conservative retirees. Norma would call the moving van and play it safe once she got there, but Anthony, Anthony might not go there at all.

Anthony gave me more news on the phone. "This girl has been following me, trying to get me to run for student senate. I kept saying no, but I finally said yes. Then she told me that all the other senators are conservative. I don't need that." I agreed. Martyrdom is not a requirement for today's dykes.

But later, thinking about it, I decided maybe she did need it, Why shouldn't a gay kid be able to develope her leadership skills in college - - whether she wears a tie or not. Why shouldn't a young lesbian find out if politicking is for her. The Victory Fund will need new candidates to support ten years down the line.

Beyond Anthony's immediate ambitions, there is the fact that gay-hating is a societal disease just like child abuse is a family disease. All it takes is one generation to break the cycle. Not only is Anthony telling the straight world how wrong it is, but she is the future. When today's newborn comes out in twenty years it will be Anthony she turns to. Anthony's not going to tell little Sappho that she, unlike Norma Jean, was too closeted. Anthony's not, like me, going to cautiously agree with her fear. Anthony's going to say, "Co-ol! Go for it!"

Even in the old days young dykes had their mentors. In 1963 I knew a gay gym teacher who spoke to me in code, at least letting me know she acknowledged me as a "member of the club." She passed on the torch, but dared not light it. My generation has set that torch ablaze.

And Anthony - - Anthony called me back and said, "I'm going to do it. I'm going to run for student senate. Fuck 'em."

Copyright Lee Lynch

After awhile you learn the subtle difference between holding a hand and chaining a soul.
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning and company doesn't often mean security.
And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts and presents aren't promises.
And you begin to accept your defeats with your head up and your eyes ahead,
With the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child.
And you learn to build all your roads on today because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans. And futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight.
After a while you learn that even sunshine burns if you get to much. So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.
And you learn that you really can endure, That you really are strong and you really do have worth.
And you learn, And you learn.
With every good-bye,
You learn.

Veronica A. Shoffstall

COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. *COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

49 Are you fun, adventurous and free-spirited, and are you wanting to share these virtues with someone special who has them in common?

If so, and you are a professional around the age of 30, write me! I'm looking forward to getting to know you!

50 White, country-raised female, mid 40's, tired of spending weekends alone. In search of mature female around my age to possibly date on regular basis. Possible lasting relationship down road.

Interests include, but not limited to, nature photograph, fishing, hiking, quiet nites at home.

Please, no one niters, head-games, bi's or druggies. Prefer no little kids.

"I am willing to release the need for relationships that do not nourish and support me. I am worthy of love."..... Unknown

P.S. If you have any constructive ideas concerning ways to make this section better serve your needs, please write and share your ideas. ***Also, if you have something that you would like to say to our wimin, even though it is not an ad, please feel free to submit it.***

MATCHMAKING LONG DISTANCE?

ALTERNATIVE CONNECTIONS, INC.
520 N. MICHIGAN AVE. SUITE 404
CHICAGO, IL 60611
(312) 494-1449 FOR INFORMATION

LESBIAN NATIONAL ONLINE SERVICE:
FOR YOUR LOCAL ACCESS NUMBER CALL: (VOICE) 800-303-2000
(MODEM) 415-703-8240 TELNET OR WWW: BBSW.EYECON.COM
FROM *THE ADVOCATE*

Consumer Information from TLC (The Lesbian Committee of NOW)

P.O. Box 1348
South Bend, IN 46624-1348
(219) 232-3278

We wanted to let you know a little bit more about who we are and what we're doing. The Lesbian Committee of NOW is a small group of women who are dedicated to educating people about the needs of lesbians and gay men. Each month for about the last year, we've chosen a category, located businesses in the yellow pages in that category, and surveyed them about how friendly they are toward lesbian or gay male clients or workers. We send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE), and indicate a deadline in about ten days. Then all the company needs to do is check off that they are welcoming, put their response in the provided self-addressed, stamped envelope, and drop it in the mail. Once we receive those responses, we publish a list in several local newsletters (including Around the Bend, BMC Michiana, GLND/SMC, IYG, Open Arms, P-Flag, Spectrum, and the Sunday Bunch) about which businesses we mailed to and which ones responded.

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your employees was lesbian or gay, would you retain them in the same position?

Many of those surveyed have not responded. Some of these may be supportive of lesbians and gay men and some most surely are not. All we can say is whether or not they chose to respond, but not why they didn't. Do you think this information is worthwhile? If so, let us know. Write to one of the newsletters where you've seen the information published. If your favorite provider (dentist, doctor, restaurant, therapist, whatever) didn't respond, talk to them about it. Ask them why they preferred not to use this free publicity. Then write us and tell us what you've discovered.

In the future we plan to survey emergency departments at local hospitals, therapists, and realtors. If you have some suggestions about people or categories we should poll, let us know. Also, if you know some businesses that would like to be listed in our "lesbian-gay friendly" business directory, let us know that, too and we'll send them the form to fill out Thanks.

Consumer Information from TLC (The Lesbian Committee of NOW)

Each month The Lesbian Committee intends to survey 8-10 similar businesses or services in your area in order to identify those businesses that are lesbian/ gay friendly. We will then make the list of businesses who responded within the deadline, and those who did not, to the local lesbian/gay newsletters. In addition, TLC will compile an annual directory of lesbian/gay-friendly businesses and distribute it to local lesbian/ gay organizations.

"Hi ho, hi ho. It's out to eat we go." This month we polled the Grape Road corridor restaurants. We chose some independents as well as franchises of local chains and we inquired of some of the fast food joints. Please consider supporting those businesses that support our "family."

We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply.

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your employees was a lesbian or a gay, would you retain them in the same position?

No Reply from any that we polled: Come on Grape Rd.!

Baker's Square	Macri's Deli
Bamboo Garden	Old Country Buffet
Barnaby's	Olive Garden
Chili's	Oriental Garden
Colorado Steak House	Wendy's
Coney Express	Ryan's Steakhouse
Don Pablo's	Spagheddies
Hacienda	Steak 'n Shake
Hanayori	Subway
	TGI Friday's
Imperial Palace	Tokyo Grill
MacDonald's	Wings, etc.

MICHIANA MOMAZONS

Momazons is a support group for lesbians desiring children through alternative insemination and/or adoptions and with children from marriages. We meet on a monthly basis. If you are thinking about motherhood, trying to get pregnant or adopt, or already are a lesbian mother, you may be interested in participating in our group. We provide support, information sharing, resource options and great storytelling about our individual experiences as we pursue motherhood. Contact **Momazons of Michiana** P.O.Box 1002, Niles, Michigan 49120

In your search for riches, don't lose the things that money can't buy.

WOMEN: ARE YOU ANGRY?

Too often, the issue of domestic violence focuses only on men's anger.
Many women are caught in a cycle of violence and victimization in abusive relationships. Still others are filled with their own anger over incidents and/or relationships in their lives. Repressed anger may be expressed by substance abuse, child abuse, eating disorders and other emotional disorders. Some women learn to be aggressive/abusive towards their partners.

Nowak & Associates offers anger counseling for women. During the sessions, participants will discover and establish their own boundaries. Women are encouraged to address family issues of abuse, neglect and abandonment. They will work through resentments and learn to let go of past hurts. Participants learn to express their feelings and respond to them appropriately.

Communication skills, rage reduction, assertiveness training, parenting techniques, and various addictive behaviors will be addressed.

Groups meet Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. The fee is $10.00 per session. Individual counseling is also available.

Nancy J. Taylor, Counselor

NOWAK & ASSOCIATES
3702 West Sample Street
Suite 250-251
South Bend, IN 46619
(219) 234-3338

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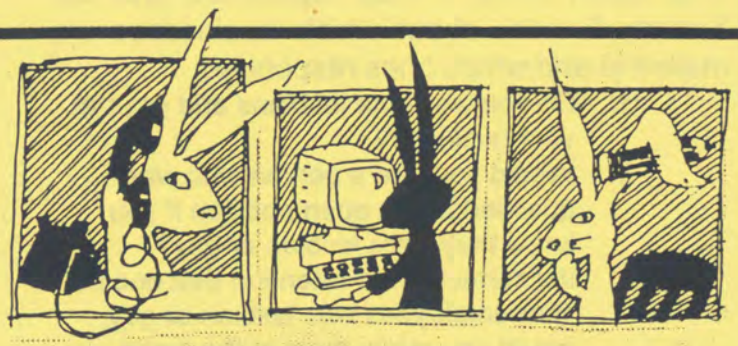

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Cathy Lambert, ACSW, CCSW
Director

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SOUTH BEND

125 South Hill Street
South Bend, IN 46617
(219) 232-4191
1-800-92-KOALA
FAX (219) 232-4561

ANNE V. WHITCOMB MA, CSW
Counseling for Growth & Health
(219) 674-0168

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a woman's resort with 12 private
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Near Traverse City. For info: Marge & Joanne's,
PO Box 457, Glen Arbor, MI 49636
(616) 334-3346.

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April

1996

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
	1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	3	4 PASSOVER	5 GOOD FRIDAY	6
7 EASTER	8	9 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13 Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, Chicago 312-477-8362 ALEX DOBKIN
14 Open Arms Meeting 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Support Group 7:00 p.m. Reservations due 3rd Fri. out	17	18	19 Third Friday Out 6:30 p.m.	20 Birthday wishes to Millie L.
21	22	23 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	24	25	26	27 Mountain Moving Coffeehouse,Chicago 312-477-8362 Comic--Marcia Wilkie: "Are You Happy ?"
28 PFLAG Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.	29 LYNN is 40 today	30 Support Group 7:00 p.m.				

MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community. *Open Arms* is discreetly mailed 12 times a year in a security envelope with a P.O. Box return address only. New and renewal subscriptions are $10.00/year. Make checks payable to *Open Arms*. Please include your name, address, and telephone number. Mail to: P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the May newsletter is April 10th. Submissions received after April 10th may not be published in the May newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms*, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

Newsletter Meeting April 14, 6:30 p.m. For information 271-0338